

Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission Minutes of August 19, 1997

Present: Commissioners -

Burt Boyum, Quincy Mine Hoist Association
Kathryn Eckert, (former) State Historic Preservation Officer
Larry Lankton, Michigan Technological University
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor
Mary Tuisku, Council Person, City of Hancock

National Park Service -

Frank Fiala, KNHP Superintendent
Josef Balachowski, Historical Architect
Edward Yarbrough, Research Historian
Lynn Bjorkman, Community Planner
Al Hutchings, Associate Regional Director for Legislation and Policy

Recording Secretary -

Lisa Dwyer, Michigan Technological University

Absent: Commissioner - Clarence Dwyer, Houghton County Commissioner

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, August 19, 1997, in Calumet, Michigan at Park Headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the June 3, 1997 KNHP Advisory Commission meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Burt Boyum and seconded by Mary Tuisku, the minutes were approved with no additions or corrections.

Superintendent's Report

Frank Fiala expressed his enthusiasm for his new position as KNHP superintendent. He acknowledged the work the park staff has done the past several months and thanked them for the help and insight they had given him since his arrival.

The General Management Plan draft document has been his main focus since his arrival, and he feels that the document should be completed by the end of this calendar year. Public meetings are scheduled for September 22 in Calumet and September 23 in Hancock, at which time public comments will be accepted either in writing or verbally. Public comments will be accepted until October 31.

Josef Balachowski has moved his office to the park headquarter's building. Fiala said he hopes to eventually have all of the park staff in the same office space in order to better work together on a daily basis and to make for better communications.

Senator Carl Levin will be visiting the Keweenaw area today. His stops are to include St. Anne's Church and the Quincy Mine Hoist area, according to Fiala.

A cooperative agreement was reached recently between KNHP and Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

If anyone has questions, problems, or concerns with the park staff, Fiala asked people to come to him first in order to resolve any issues.

On behalf of his family, Fiala said they are delighted to be here and look forward to being a part of the community.

Historical Architect's Report

Josef Balachowski reported that earlier in the summer he worked with 13 high school students who were attending a two-week summer institute program at Michigan Tech. These students are interested in pursuing engineering and architecture careers. They discussed possible adaptive reuses of the Quincy Smelter site.

Balachowski received assistance from some of Larry Lankton's students who helped move patterns to a temporary storage area while racks in the Pattern Shop are being rebuilt.

He has been working with Houghton County Historical Society to discuss what to do with the First Congregational Church building, which is vacant.

Balachowski said that he has been working with two property owners on adaptive reuse of their buildings. One is to be a facade restoration in Calumet and the other is adaptive reuse of an entire building in Laurium. These projects would be ideal model projects to help the community get an idea as to what historic preservation is all about and how adaptive reuse is beneficial to the community.

He is also advising the Hancock Historic Preservation Committee. The committee is working on design guidelines for the historic district.

A grant application submitted to the National Park Foundation for funding to help with Quincy's blacksmith shop and No.2 hoisthouse was turned down but Balachowski was told by the foundation that the proposal was excellent and they would be interested in talking about future projects. Balachowski thanked John Sullivan of U.P. Engineering for providing cost estimates for the proposed work. Burt Boyum asked if he could have a copies of all of the correspondence and paperwork regarding the proposal.

Balachowski said that he and Ed Yarbrough looked at the St Anne's Church belfry and made a list of problems to be added to the Quinn and Evans condition assessment report of the building.

Research Historian

Ed Yarbrough spoke of the 1997 summer series of evening talks sponsored by KNHP. The faculty of the Social Sciences Department at Michigan Tech provided several of the guest speakers for the evening talks. Lynn Bjorkman and Josef Balachowski were speakers as well.

Yarbrough was busy with recent conferences such as the Mining History Association conference and the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association.

Larry Lankton, Kathryn Eckert, and Burt Boyum are in the process of reviewing Yarbrough's Historic Resource Study.

Yarbrough and Balachowski are on the board of the Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's. A planning grant for exhibitions enabled the center to bring Tim Chester, Director of the Grand Rapids Museum of Art, and Sandra Clark, Director of the Michigan Historical Center, to meet with the board. These two people were very

helpful in brainstorming with the board on what is possible in St. Anne's exhibition space. The idea is to have the space focus on the social history of the area.

In addition, Bjorkman and Yarbrough are on the planning committee which is organizing a conference on small town preservation and administering historic districts. Jim Boyce, Sue Cone, and Dennis Borst are also helping to plan the conference to be held in Marquette September 19 and 20. Bjorkman added that she has brochures available to distribute.

Community Planner

Bjorkman is continuing her research on Warren Manning, the landscape architect, who did a wide range of projects in Calumet. She presented a paper on her research on Manning at the SIA conference and the Mining History Association conference.

She has been working with Balachowski on design guidelines for the establishment of the first historic district within the former Calumet and Hecla Industrial core area.

She received a grant to continue her survey. She'll be photographing and documenting mining company housing. The survey is important groundwork for a future historic district ordinance.

Bjorkman said she has been working with John Garbor on the public investment data base survey which will document the investments made by federal, state, and public monies that have gone into the development of the park over its 5 year history. The first phase of the data has focused on the contributions made by government units.

John Garbor said that the response to the survey from all of the municipalities has been very good although the Quincy Mine Hoist Association hasn't provided him with any information, yet.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Paul Lehto said that he, Clarence Dwyer, and Burt Boyum were not able to meet with Frank Fiala during the summer as they had planned but will plan to meet sometime soon. Boyum added that the finance committee met with the previous superintendent last year, but Boyum felt that the meetings were futile and non-productive. He looks forward to meeting with Fiala to discuss how the finance committee might function in the future.

Preservation Committee: Larry Lankton said his committee did not meet but Lankton investigated Isle Royale Natural History Association's offer (made at a previous park meeting) to affiliate with KNHP. Lankton said he spoke with Jill Burkland, the director of the association and he recommends such an affiliation. He added that he has just become aware of a meeting occurring tomorrow between Fiala and Jill Burkland regarding possible affiliation.

Reports and Comments from Commissioners

Lehto asked, on behalf of the absent Clarence Dwyer, what is happening with the building in which park headquarters is currently housed. Fiala said the clinic in the building plans to move to its new location sometime in April of 1998. Fiala said he will be at the Omaha office sometime in the fall to address the issue of how things will change for park headquarters once the doctors vacate the building and how the park will stand with its office space there. Fiala noted that until the GMP is approved, the park service can do nothing about the ownership status of the building.

Mary Tuisku said she was in Detroit attending a Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs meeting

recently and participated on a grant panel. The council had \$820,000 in grant money to distribute throughout the state of Michigan. Tuisku said that having served on such panels before helped her have a better understanding as to what is available in the way of funding. She said she wants to inform the community that there is money for historic preservation through the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs if applications are done right. Tuisku explained how she saw some of the grant money applied. Historic renovations, arts projects, and economic development projects can work in conjunction with one another. As an example, a building in downtown Benton Harbor is not only having some historic renovation done to it, but a portion of the building is being dedicated to art space and it is located in a renaissance zone.

The congregation of the Glad Tidings Assembly of God church in Hancock behind Hancock Hardware is moving to a new building. Another congregation is looking at the possibility of buying the church so hopefully the church will not be left vacant. Tuisku said some facade restoration needs to be done to the church. The brick is deteriorating and no one seems to know why this is happening.

In other matters, Tuisku said the city has been working closely with the developers of the condo project on the waterfront in Hancock to make sure it is a positive addition to the Keweenaw.

The Coast Guard is moving from its current location in Hancock to Dollar Bay. Streetscape bids are due by the end of August. There is talk that the owner of the Mary Kay Stratton home is going to renovate the outside of the house.

Burt Boyum said the Quincy tramway opened in May and operates 7 days a week. The visitor traffic is heavy with people waiting two hours at times to ride the tram. The Hoist Association is considering laying track in the adit with a locomotive and cars to transport visitors in and out of the mine.

At the last advisory commission meeting Boyum said he had commented on the fact that when QMHA acquired the surface rights to the Quincy #2 shafthouse and hoist, the property was put on the Quincy Township tax rolls for a value of \$76,000 (10 times more than what the association paid for the rights). Boyum said that QMHA went before the township tax tribunal to request that the shafthouse and mine hoist be taken off the tax roll, but it has heard nothing yet from the tribunal.

Boyum reported that progress has been made toward the purchase of the Quincy pay office by QMHA. The association plans to generate rental income from the pay office should it be able to purchase that building. The association is also working on acquiring the peripheral lands around the Quincy core. The core is a 10 acre parcel encompassing the shaft house, hoist house, and a part of the gift shop. The property line runs through the gift shop. The association purchased the tramway right of way two years ago. Some progress has been made regarding the association's plans to purchase the Quincy Smelter owned by Ventures and Quincy Development Corporation.

Boyum reported that he read Larry Lankton's recent book *Beyond the Boundaries: Life and Landscape at the Lake Superior Copper Mines 1840-1875* and commented that it is an outstanding volume and an important research document.

Boyum referred to the June advisory commission minutes in which Erik Nordberg expressed his concern over a paper presented at the recent SIA conference. (Nordberg felt it was a negative paper on the preservation efforts made by supporters and promoters for KNHP.) Boyum said he listened to the paper being presented and felt it was an insult to all who worked so hard on behalf of the park. Paul Lehto said he spoke with the young man over the phone about the paper to express his concern about its contents. Lankton commented that he felt people overreacted to the paper and, based on academic freedom, the author of the paper had every right to present his paper and the park has to expect some kind of criticism at times. Everyone agreed on the

rights of academic freedom. Mary Tuisku added that she feels that the people who attended the SIA conference where this person presented the paper are astute enough and have the insight and expertise to consider the source of the criticism and keep it in context.

Kathryn Eckert announced a conference to be held the last weekend in September at the Michigan Historical Center. It is on teaching with the National Register of Historic Places. The Keeper of the National Register will be making a presentation at the conference.

Eckert mentioned her continuing involvement with the Americana Foundation where she serves as a trustee. She said its primary emphasis is on funding projects that are related to land use planning, farmland open space preservation, and heritage projects. She said she hasn't seen very many projects of this nature submitted from the Upper Peninsula and would like to encourage people to apply to the foundation for funding.

Eckert said she noticed some repair work going on at St. Paul's Church. She feels that church is a significant landmark and every effort should be made to insure that it is kept in service.

Larry Lankton spoke about the Industrial Archaeology graduate program at Michigan Tech. Tech continues to work on behalf of the park in many ways, he said. Earlier in the summer Lankton organized a group of undergraduate students from one of his Social Sciences classes to assist Josef Balachowski in moving patterns out of the pattern storage areas. Faculty members of the Social Sciences Department gave talks at the park's 1997 summer guest speakers series. Kim Hoagland, faculty member from the Social Sciences Department, is heavily involved with the planning of the Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's.

Lankton said he would like to see a cooperative agreement between KNHP and the Industrial Archaeology graduate program at Tech.

Degradation of the National Historical Landmark sites continues, according to Lankton. He is concerned with the intersection of the new road going to the hospital on U.S. 41 in the Quincy Mine area. Signage and traffic lights affect the character of that particular area and Lankton hopes that the intersection conflicts as little as possible with the preservation and interpretation of the Quincy mine site. He is also concerned with QMHA's crushing of mine rock at the Quincy site and selling it in order to pay for projects. The landscape has been drastically altered at the very center of the Quincy mine site because of this activity.

Chairman's Report

Paul Lehto reported that the walking trail and fishing piers are in the final stages of completion at the Swedetown Pond.

The windows are done and ready to be installed at the Captain's Office. Lehto wants storm windows installed to protect the new windows, too.

St. Anne's Church is taking bids for \$100,000 worth of restoration work. There will be separate bids taken on heating, electrical, and plumbing. This work will be done in the fall and it should help stabilize the building.

In other matters, Lehto said he has met with the railroad depot owner and feels more positive about the possibility of working with that person on the potential use of the depot. The township is working on winterizing the historic signs. The old State Police Post has been leased to Calumet Township for \$1 a year. There is an abundance of mine core in the area but Lehto said he doesn't know the value of it or if it all should be saved. Much of the mine core is worthless unless there is some kind of record as to where it was taken. Boyum commented that the Michigan Geological Survey, which is a part of the Michigan DNR, or the U.S.

Geological Survey, might be helpful in figuring out what to do with the mine core samples. The U.S. Bureau of Mines has storage area in St. Paul, Minnesota. Boyum said the mine core is a valuable record and should be saved. Erik Nordberg suggested contacting Michigan Tech faculty members, Bill Rose or Ted Bornhorst, of the Geology Department. He heard there is a core collection there and they may have some idea as to what to do with it.

Reports and Comments from Legislative Staff

Amy Wisti of Congressman Bart Stupak's office said that Stupak visited the area recently and rode the Quincy tram and participated in the groundbreaking for the condos in Hancock.

Laurie Bink of Senator Spencer Abraham's office said the senator visited the area a few days ago and is pleased with the progress of the park. Bink added that she was legislative director for Congressman Bob Davis when the legislation was written which created the park and she is thrilled to be a part of the park again.

Comments from the Associate Regional Director

Al Hutchings and Frank Fiala met recently with the person who handles boards and commissions in Washington, D.C. to discuss the replacement for Peder Kittl. As of now, the Department of Interior has the replacement request in its hands.

Congress and the Administration have treated the park service well regarding budgets, according to Hutchings. Each park will receive a 1 or 2% increase and they haven't had to suffer major cuts that some federal agencies had to undergo. Once the GMP is in place the regional park service office will be able to focus its resources on what needs to be done at KNHP. The GMP, when in place, will also allow for legislative staff such as Amy Wisti, Rosemary Wellington, and Laurie Bink to begin to pursue line item legislation for specific projects needing to get done here. Once the public comment period is over regarding the GMP draft document, and if there aren't extensive comments, the GMP document should be completed by the end of this calendar year, Hutchings said.

Referring to Lankton's suggestion to have some kind of working agreement in place between KNHP and Michigan Tech, Hutchings explained that at one time the park service did have a cooperating Park Study unit at Michigan Tech which provided assistance to a number of parks in the northern Midwest. There is one park study unit left in Minnesota, but park study units nationwide were turned over to the Biological Survey. There is a possibility that some sort of study groups may be initiated.

Hutchings talked about budget distribution among parks. He said older parks do get a disproportionate share of the overall funding in the National Park system because they have a track record and they have demonstrated needs that are supplied year after year. New parks by their very nature are not treated this way. In the Midwest where there are a number of smaller new parks, there is a push to have the National Leadership Council take a closer look at the distribution of future funding.

To show what an interest there is in this park, Hutchings pointed out that there were dozens of candidates who applied for the KNHP superintendent's job.

Comments and Questions from the Public

Sue Cone, comptroller of the Village of Calumet, commented that she hopes the historic district boundaries in Calumet Township will include the Oseola 13 property and include part of the west side of Mine Street which has some C & H buildings located there.

She also suggested that Lynn Bjorkman maintain some office hours in the Village of Calumet in order not to

loose contact with public even after she moves to park headquarters.

The 5th Street project is costing \$702,000 with funding coming from ISTEA money in the amount of \$163,500; \$378,500 from EDA; and \$160,000 in bonds, according to Cone. The project involves removing blacktop on 5th Street and exposing the original bricks as well as extending sidewalks and adding replicas of street poles.

Erik Nordberg of Michigan Tech Archives commented on the recent Society of Industrial Archaeology conference and the Mining History Association conference. He said that between the two conferences there were about 400 attendees. He feels that the conferences generated good publicity and increased interest in the Keweenaw. As a result of those conferences, there has been requests for reading lists, photographs, and slides of the Keweenaw. Professors from across the country are looking for material to add to their curriculum, according to Nordberg.

Nordberg announced a reception to be held September 28 at the MTU Archives to mark the end of the NHPRC grant project which was organized to process the Quincy and Calumet and Hecla collections of records. He added that there is about 1000 cubic feet of records.

Friends of the Van Pelt Library bestowed on the Archives a \$500 annual research travel stipend designed to support researchers who want to come to use the Archives, according to Nordberg.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, October 28, 1997, 8:30 a.m. at the Park Headquarters Conference Room, 100 Red Jacket Road, Calumet, Michigan.